

St. Leo the Great Parish

April 2017 Newsletter



Easter Prayer

*The veil of
darkness
Transformed to
the brightest
light.*

*The most dreadful
end
Became the most
beautiful
beginning.*

*The depths of
despair
Fade to reveal
hope everlasting.*

*The curse of
death
Defeated by
eternal life.*

*Thank you Lord,
for the wonder of
Easter.*

Because of You . . .

St. Leo's struggle and its gift is its poverty. In order to continue and expand its mission and ministry to the community and our immigrant and refugee parishioners we need to reach out to others to help us through prayer, finances, and service. Through God's grace it becomes mutual blessing.

And so we thank...



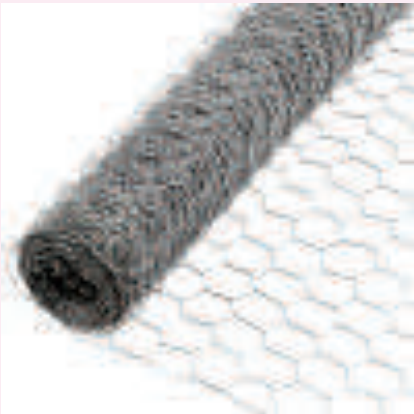
Thank you so very much to the thoughtful donor who provided a basketfull of seed packets for our community garden. Our gardeners can hardly wait to get started!



A Great Big Thank You to the donor who answered the need for a vacuum for the entrance area at the food pantry. The vacuum will help keep our entry way tidy and welcoming!



From our Saturday English as a Second Language teacher: "I can't tell you how much I use that huge whiteboard! How did I function before we had it? And I'm finding the laptops we just got are very handy too." **We can't thank you enough!**



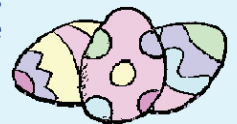
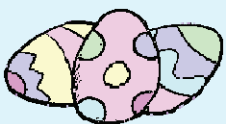
Thank you again and again to the sharp eyed donor who provided a roll of chicken wire. The wire will be used for layering and containing various frozen items in the chest freezers at the food pantry.



Many, many thanks to Knights of Columbus from St. Ignatius Loyola who spent a Saturday morning at the food pantry doing a thorough spring cleaning. They were able to clean all the places that are so hard to reach under the shelves, the tops of the shelves, and behind the shelves.

¡Gracias! Murakoze! Thank You!

We are deeply grateful for your continued and generous support. Our St. Leo the Great parish community promises to remember you and your loved ones in our private prayer, as well as in our communal prayer, which is to say that we are praying for you all the time. May our gracious God fill you with every blessing!



Pastor's Ponderings . . .

This is the month that Easter begins and we continue to celebrate it in our liturgies for fifty days. All of us at St. Leo the Great Parish wish you Feliz Pascua, Pasti Conziza, Happy Easter! We hope and pray that you will thoroughly enjoy and delight in the fifty days of celebrating Easter that conclude with the grand celebration of Pentecost. We pray that you will be blessed with new and abundant life of God's presence in your life, rejoicing as you live your faith, renewed by the promises of your baptism, singing Alleluia and practicing resurrection. Thank you for the hope you will live and bring to others by living more freely away from sin and death in our world. Celebrate the Lord's victory over death by loving unconditionally and helping raise others up over the weaknesses of the human condition. Show your family and the whole world that life, eternal life has the final say now and forever. As signs of Spring break out in abundance during this month and remind us that "unless a seed falls to the earth and dies it will not produce much fruit," join with all creation in praising and thanking God for the gift of resurrection and new life.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support for all of us here at St. Leo the Great. We have been the beneficiaries of the fruits of your Lenten prayer, fasting and works of charity. In so many ways, you have helped us experience the new life of the Lord's resurrection and you have shown us that life gets the final say for anyone who believes. Please know that as we praise God with Alleluias, music and dancing we are also thanking God for you and your goodness. May the Lord fill you with an abundance of Easter joy and blessings. Thank you for helping us build God's kingdom and for being God's church with us.

Before we celebrate Easter this month, we have the honor and privilege of celebrating Holy Week together. Beginning with Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday Night Vigil, we truly enter into the Lord's Passion. It is a celebration of the Paschal mystery where eternal life comes from death. Death is the vehicle through which we will live forever. "If we die with the Lord, we will rise with the Lord." God has destined all of us to share in Jesus' victory over sin and death. This is the most solemn prayer of the Church and I encourage everyone to check your church bulletins for the schedule of the liturgies for Holy Week and plan to participate in some, if not all. "There is truly no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends."

All of the sacraments embrace the paschal mystery in some way and help us encounter the Lord's resurrected presence. I want to tell you a true story that happened to me



a long time ago. I was a part-time chaplain at Bethesda North Hospital in Cincinnati and I was called to visit a patient who had asked for the Sacrament of the Sick. When I got to her room, she was in bed,



facing the window with her back to the door. I walked around to the side of the bed by the window so I could see her face and try to talk to her. I immediately noticed that she was unresponsive and attached to many machines. She was making gurgling sounds. I was really tempted to leave the room and get back to my work at the parish. After all, she cannot participate and what good could come from me just reciting the prayers alone? I heard a strong voice inside me urge me to stay and say all of the prayers a loud. Then I remembered something that I had been taught: "Hearing is one of the last senses to stop working when someone is dying, so it is always good to talk to the person whether they can respond to you or not."

I prayed all of the prayers aloud and the lady showed no response, only gurgling. Then it came time to pray the Our Father. When I started to pray, she stopped gurgling and in a strong and very clear voice she prayed the Our Father with me. As soon as we finished praying the Our Father, she started gurgling again. I finished the ritual with tears in my eyes. I blessed her with these words: "May the Lord be with you to protect you. Stand behind you to give you strength. Look upon you with kindness and bless you with peace." I kissed my hand and touched her forehead. I told her that I with the Lord's church loved her very much. When I put my hand on the door knob to leave (Remember that her back would now be toward me.) the gurgling stopped again and in a clear, strong voice she said, "Father, I love you." I went running back to her bed and I said, "Thank you. I love you too!" Immediately, she started gurgling again. Two days later, she died.

"If we die with the Lord, we will rise with Him." Suffering and sickness do not have to end in death. We are redeemed. Eternal Life has the final say for all of us. It was such a blessing and a comfort to know that the Lord truly joins our sufferings to his sufferings and carries us or walks with us right into his kingdom. "Be not afraid. I am with you always!" A blessed Holy Week to all! Happy Easter everyone!

St. Leo's Prayer Wall is a place where all, regardless of age, race or creed, are invited to sing God's praises, give Him thanks, and/or call upon His presence for help in times of need. The wall, a place of prayer for all peoples (much like the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem), captures the faces of the community, as well as peacemakers and saints who have inspired us through the ages.

Our St. Leo the Great parish community promises to remember you in our private prayer, as well as in our communal prayer, which is to say that we are praying for you all the time.

All prayer requests are held in strictest confidence. **Send your prayer request to:**
Prayer Request, Saint Leo the Great Church, 2573 Saint Leo Place, Cincinnati, OH 45225

Visiting the Sick . . .

(As part of our ongoing commitment to continue focusing on the works of mercy, this month we will explore the ways St. Leo's ministers to the sick and supports those who are grieving.)

Illness is often a lonely, scary experience but with the interventions and support of one's medical team and natural and faith families it can become a journey of growth, healing and community.

St. Leo's has been blessed to have the services of faith community nurses for 26 years. In fact the program was first piloted here by Good Samaritan Hospital (now TriHealth) and now has expanded to several other sites that minister to communities that serve people often at the margins.

Mary Beth Basch, current faith community nurse has been at St. Leo's for 20 years.



During that time the population she serves has changed but her commitment to be present and walk with people in their prevention, sickness, healing and dying has been constant.

It's not a job with clearly defined parameters. No day is alike. Faith community nurses need to be flexible and creative and able to meet the need that presents itself at that moment. Over her two

decades at St. Leo's Mary Beth has offered health screenings, scheduled appointments, supported follow-up to doctors' visits and helped people find a medical home and provided a network of after-care. She did a group for women in a chemical dependency half-way house and continues to offer a listening group for women at The Villages at Roll Hill twice a month.

For the past several years, her work has been primarily with African refugees fleeing genocide. Seeing a doctor or being concerned about one's health simply wasn't a priority when bullets were flying and everything had to be left behind. Many could speak but not read or write in their native language. A few had had some education. Modern medical practices and devices were often terrifying. Imagine being told to lie still in a closed MRI machine and not understanding what was going on.

There was a lot of basic health care needed in the beginning—routine exams, treating ongoing diseases and

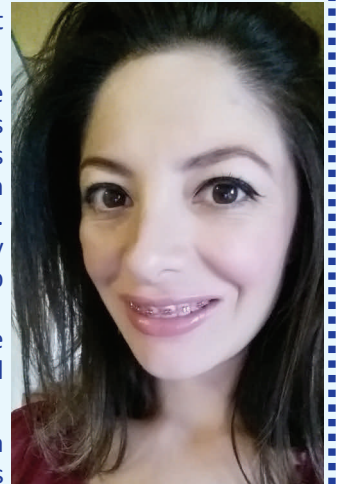


learning how to make and keep medical appointments. Without a translator, the work was extremely difficult so TriHealth added a community health worker who spoke the language and could explain what was going on. Many still need the aid of a translator and help getting to appointments and

following through with doctor recommendations. Though it may not fit in the usual job description, reading mail and helping fill out governmental forms is a needed service and reinforces the trust that is needed in this kind of ministry.

Obed Nkuriragenda a native of Rwanda who himself has experienced the genocidal wars in his home country works with Mary Beth as a community health worker. Together they go each week to many of the refugees' homes and help them set up medication for the week and trouble shoot anything that might need attention.

Luz Ruvalcaba-Alvarez a native Spanish speaker serves as community health worker for the Hispanic community and is a strong advocate for them.



The approach of the faith community nurse is holistic and involves not just caring for physical health s, but also emotional, relational and spiritual needs. This kind of nursing helps increase trust and empower people to begin to take responsibility for their own health care. It creates the kind of setting in which people can identify and ask for what they need. Realizing that being able to understand and use English was necessary in their adjusting to life in a new country, the refugees asked for ESL and citizenship classes and TriHealth generously provided them. Many are learning to read and write for the first time and others are working on citizenship.

An often quoted prayer of Cardinal Newman seems to describe the ministry of the faith community nurse:

*Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom,
Lead Thou me on!
The night is dark, and I am far from home--
Lead Thou me on!
Keep Thou my feet;
I do not ask to see the distant scene--
one step enough for me...*

Bringing health and wholeness through the guidance of the spirit—one step, one person at a time.

The Healing Power of the Sacrament of the Sick...

It used to be that it wasn't until someone was dying that she received the Sacrament of the Sick—in fact it used to be called "Extreme Unction." Some people still are hesitant to ask for the sacrament because they fear receiving it means that they are dying. The Sacrament of the Sick is so much more. It is a visible sign of God's love and desire to be present with a person and allay their fears and provide support as they face their illness.

I Never Would Have Done It That Way

Come on, God, there has to be a better way to show your love than a bloody crucifixion—and coming as a helpless infant to seemingly insignificant parents in a smelly stable surrounded by farm animals doesn't seem one bit almighty.

Take a deep breath, God seems to say. Look at it through my eyes. I love you and want to be with you not just in "holy" moments but in the ordinariness and pain of your daily life. And I want you to be with others as I am with you. Things are not often as they appear. Look for my gifts in unexpected places.

As a chemical dependency counselor I've had the opportunity to be with people at their worst and discover that behind the often terrible choices they've made and the chaos they've caused are gentle fragile spirits just struggling to survive. People would often ask me, "How can you work with 'those' people? They're criminals who risked their own and others' lives. They're shady characters who look scary. They're not going to change. Why waste your time with them?" I'd tell them that it's a privilege to walk with them on their journey. There's so much good in each person and I got to see it—what a blessing!

So often our human expectations interfere with seeing God at work in our lives. It's really hard to get out of the way, let go of our own ways of thinking and expectations about how things "should be" and be open to the unexpected—to find God's gifts even in the midst of our own selfishness and brokenness.

One birthday when my husband was still alive he asked what gift I wanted. I was working in a counseling agency and "needed" a professional style rain coat. Looking forward to snappy new rain wear when I took off the wrappings I instead discovered a sporty nylon salmon-colored hoodie. I couldn't hide my disappointment. "But I shopped for it," he said. Knowing that he hated shopping so much that he once bought a green blazer

because he had a color blind salesman who mistook green for navy. I softened some and realized that the gift was not the jacket, but his willingness to go into a department store and shop. Nearly 20 years after his death, I wear that jacket when the weather gets cool in spring and fall and remember his real gift.

Recently I've been taking a class on Franciscan spirituality and it's changing my way of thinking about what really is of value and especially my perceptions about the way God "ought" to be doing things. Studying Francis has turned my view of holiness on its head. In many ways Francis never lived up respectable images of followers of Jesus. He stood naked before his father as a sign that material success and acceptance were unimportant to him. He embraced and kissed the leper knowing that God's glory was inside. He wore patches on the outside of his garment as a sign that inside he was broken and in need of mending. He saw and celebrated God's goodness in all of creation not just the "sacred." He called animals and plants and sun and moon his brothers and sisters. He definitely didn't fit the mold of "saintly" people.

Back to the bloody crucifixion...What if instead of a price God exacted from Jesus to reconcile humans to God, God had always stayed in relationship with us? What if Jesus' death was more a proof that God who took on our flesh and entered into the messiness of our lives wanted to show us that God desires to love and be with us in and through all of life's pain and chaos? No matter how horrible they are evil and death never win. There is always resurrection and new life and love beyond our imaginings.

Maybe, just maybe, I would have done it God's way after all.

—Angela Anno



"Dear Brothers and Sisters, good morning!

Jesus' life, especially in the three years of His public ministry, was an incessant encounter with individuals. Among these, the sick had a special place. How many pages of the Gospel talk about these encounters! The paralytic, the blind, the leper, the possessed, the epileptic, and innumerable sick of all sorts ... Jesus made Himself close to each one of them, and He healed them with His presence and the power of His healing strength. Therefore, among the works of mercy, to visit and assist the sick cannot be lacking."

--Pope Francis



St. Leo Parish and Community Contact Information

Pastor: Rev. James R. Schutte
Address: 2573 Saint Leo Place, Cincinnati, OH 45225
Phone: 513-921-1044
Parish Nurse: 513-862-4398
Fax: 513-921-8048
E-Mail: stleocinti@aol.com
Website: www.saint-leo.org
Facebook: St. Leo The Great Catholic Church
St. Leo's YouTube Channel: StLeoTheGreatParish
Worship Schedule: Saturday 6:00pm Mass in Spanish; Sunday Mass: 10:30am; Weekday Mass: Thursday 7:00pm



CLANCY'S CLICHES



Bzzzzzzz. Yes! Do it! Feel the vibration on your mouth! Pretty bee-utiful feeling.

Vibrations, drumming, heartbeats, all surround us and present particular unique mechanisms for our body, mind and soul.

Back in the womb, we felt the comfort of our mother's heartbeat. Napping on the floor, I feel the vibrations and beat of footsteps, voices, thumping of the typewriter, and the thumping of Jake's foot as he tries to scratch his ear. Running footsteps, marching, humming. All of life is full of energy to be felt, heard and experienced. It's a very primeval feeling since way, way back - since the beginning of time.

We each have our own natural internal rhythms. So does the earth with the seasons. Like a tolling clock tower, rhythm signifies the transition of time as well as life-changing events. It is therapeutic, relieves stress, restores energy, and is even believed to bring Alzheimer's patients back into the present moment. It can help you meditate; it can help you celebrate! Riding the rhythmic waves of life frees us, enabling opportunities to move amongst life forces with awareness, gentleness and grace.

This month I'd like to challenge you to stop and focus on the frequencies in your life - externally and internally. How does your life resonate with the rhythms and vibrations of people and things around you? What do you really hear? What do you really feel? What frequencies are you sending out?

March on!

Howlin's hootn'; Growlin's not gooten!



Clancy

CLANCY'S CACKLES



Knock, knock, Who's there? Frank. Frank who? Frank you for being my friend!

Q. Why did the Easter egg hide?
Because he was a little chicken!

Q. What do you call a rabbit with fleas! Bugs Bunny!

Q. What kind of garden does a baker have?
A flour garden!

HAPPY EASTER!



FOOD PANTRY: At the corner of Carll & Baltimore
Serving Hours: Mon., Wed., & Fri., 1:00pm to 3:30pm
Fourth Saturday of the Month, Noon—2:00 pm

Pantry Requirements: Serving only those in North Fairmount, including English Woods, Roll Hill Apts., and Millvale only once every 30 days. See website at www.saint-leo.org or call Parish Office (513-921-1044) to see if your street is covered. Current proof of residence (Duke or telephone bill), photo ID & Social Security Cards for all members of household must be presented at every visit, even if you are in the system, to determine eligibility using Federal guidelines.



ONE-ON-ONE TUTORING

Every Tuesday at St. Leo, 6:30-8pm.



SEWING CLASS

Every Friday from 9am-noon. It will leave you in stitches!



COMMUNITY PHONE NUMBERS

North Fairmount Community Center/
Referral Services: Linda Klem: 513-921-5842

Housing: 513-921-5889,
Healthy Moms & Babies: 513-591-5600
Hopple Street Neighborhood Clinic: 513-541-4500

GED Referral: Roll Hill: 513-542-8333x5
Literary Network: 513-621-7323



HELPING HANDS STORE ALL ITEMS FREE, 2568

Beekman St., 45225, at the corner of Beekman and Dempsey. Accepting donations of clothing, kitchen, bath and bedding. Call Linda Klems at 623-9897.

Visit Us!

St. Leo's website: www.Saint-Leo.org
Facebook: St. Leo the Great Catholic Church
St. Leo's YouTube Channel: StLeoTheGreatParish



Enjoy the online edition with color photos!

Save the www.saint-leo.org site in your "favorites" list to visit often. Feel free to send corrections, updates, news and/or info to be included on the website to Casey Betz, Development Director, at cbetzstleo@aol.com

How You Can Help . . .

Stained Glass Window Fund

St. Leo's stained glass windows are in serious need of repair and restoration.

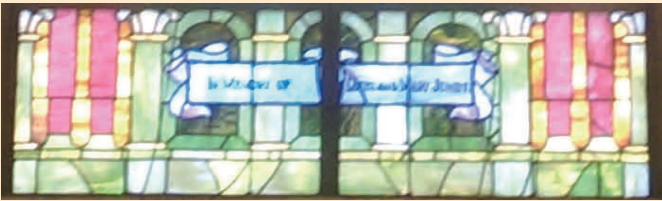
All of the windows are nearly 100 years old and are showing signs of lead fatigue, bowing, and putty deterioration. The area of most concern is in the ventilation section of the windows where the glass edges are showing extreme bowing and breakage.

Beginning in January 2017, the three windows that are in the worst condition are set to be removed and re-leaded with a restoration grade lead that will match the original style.

The cost of the entire project is expected to be at least \$25,000. Because of the high cost, we hope to repair and restore the remaining windows at the rate of 1 or 2 windows per year.

In order to do this, St. Leo's is initiating a **Stained Glass Window Fund** to help cover the cost of repairing and restoring all of the windows.

We ask you to consider making a donation to help build our Stained Glass Window Fund. Your gift of beauty will enhance our worship experience for many years to come.



Wish List

Stained Glass Windows Fund (\$25,000)

A/C for Centennial Hall (\$15,750 for entire hall including classrooms and kitchen; \$9,450 for hall).

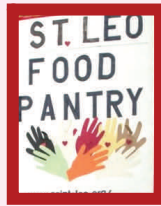
White Board Markers

Light Weight Commercial Use

Vacuum: Eureka Sanitaire® Commercial Lightweight Bagless Upright Vacuum, Gray/Red, \$255.19, for cleaning the rectory.

Lowes, Home Depot, Hobby Lobby, etc. gift cards for ongoing and special projects. Priceless!

Pantry Press



In February, the Food Pantry served 717 individuals, in 247 households, including 292 children and 77 seniors.

Needs for April: Gallon-size Zip-Loc bags, deodorant, shampoo, after-shave lotion, dish detergent, 4-pack toilet tissue, feminine hygiene products, chicken with rice soup, bean with bacon soup, cream of mushroom soup, minestrone soup, canned tuna, salmon, chicken, pineapple, fruit cocktail, mandarin oranges, mixed veggies, spinach, pancake syrup, ketchup, small mayo, salad dressings, jello.

Memorial Day Hunger Walk Walkers and Supporters!
More info and registration in next month's Newsletter.

Do You Have Just A Couple of Hours to Volunteer?

Extra hands are needed anytime during serving hours to help with stocking, cleaning, preparing stock, cutting down boxes and assorted housekeeping needs. Please call Stephanie at 513-921-1044X20.

INVENTORY CONTROL ASSOCIATE NEEDED

Responsible for the purchased and donated acquisition of food, evaluate weekly inventory, and manage weekly orders with the Freestore Foodbank and other food resources. Approx. 15-20 hours/week, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Please call Stephanie at 513-921-1044X20.

DRIVERS NEEDED

On-Call drivers needed. This volunteer opportunity requires driving donor vendors, lifting and stacking supplies in the cargo van, transporting the items back to the food pantry and then moving them from the van to the shelves. Please call Stephanie at 513-921-1044X20.

SHOPPING ESCORTS NEEDED

Shopping escorts are needed to accompany guests as they "shop" for the items they need. Escorts are needed for Mondays, Wednesday and/or Fridays from noon to 4:30 pm. Please call Stephanie at 513-921-1044X20.

Treasure Chest



- Treasure Chest tickets are sold on a monthly basis at \$5.00 each.
- Winner based on Pick 3 played straight every day.
- If you win, your prize will be sent in the mail.
- Send \$5.00 per ticket by the first of the month to: St. Leo Treasure Chest, 2573 Saint Leo Pl., Cinti., OH 45225
- Volunteers Needed to help sell tickets!

February Winners: Don Fries, Tammy White, Annie Reynolds, Barb Bruser, Tom Gall and Jo Ann Bauer.

Easy Online Giving


Make a one-time donation, or set up a weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual gift to be deducted from your banking account, or to charge your gift to your credit card:



Go to <http://saint-leo.org/Donate-Now.aspx> And click on the Donate Now Button.

SHOP AMAZON SMILE SUPPORT ST. LEO:
<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-0538556>

SHOP KROGER'S AND SUPPORT ST. LEO:
<https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards> Enter St. Leo's **NPO #28680** or search for St. Leo the Great Church.

 **iGive:** Shop the sites you love and support St. Leo! Sounds easy? It is! Sign up at <http://www.igive.com/>

ST. LEO THE GREAT CHURCH

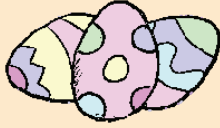
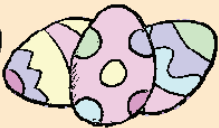
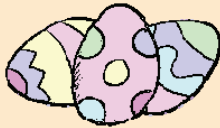
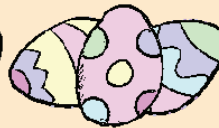
2573 St. Leo Place at Baltimore Avenue

Cincinnati, OH 45225-1960

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
  APRIL  						1 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
2 Mass: 10:30am Parish Council	3 Food Pantry open	4	5 Food Pantry open	6 Mass 7pm; English as 2nd lang. class 9:30am; Exposition 12:30-1:00pm; Exposition 7:00-9:00pm	7 Sewing Class 9-12; Food Pantry open; AA Meeting 8pm; Way of the Cross, 7pm	8 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon
9 Mass: 10:30am Palm Sunday Confirmation Class	10 Food Pantry open	11	12 Food Pantry open	13 Mass 7pm; English as 2nd lang. class 9:30am; Exposition 12:30-1:00pm Holy Thursday 7:00pm	14 Office Closed; Food Pantry Closed; AA Meeting 8pm; Good Friday 7:00pm	15 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon; Holy Saturday 8:45pm
16 Mass: 10:30am Easter	17 Office Closed Food Pantry open	18	19 Food Pantry open	20 Mass 7pm; English as 2nd lang. class 9:30am; Exposition 12:30-1:00pm	21 Sewing Class 9-12; Food Pantry open; AA Meeting 8pm	22 Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang. class 10-noon; Earth Day
23/30 Mass: 10:30am 23/Confirmation 2:00pm 30/Server's Club	24 Food Pantry open	25	26 Food Pantry open	27 Mass 7pm; English as 2nd lang. class 9:30am; Exposition 12:30-1:00pm	28 Sewing Class 9-12; Food Pantry open; AA Meeting 8pm	29 